

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EUR-12 DODE-00 L-03 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:MHENDERSON:JY

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P R 232220Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 252727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AFIN, LA, US

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EMBASSY VIENTIANE'S BANK ACCOUNTS

REF: A. VIENTIANE 6003; B. VIENTIANE 5963

1. DEPARTMENT APPROVES OPENING OF A NEW ACCOUNT AT NATIONAL BANK OF LAOS (NBL) USING FUNDSNOW ON DEPOSIT IN USDO ACCOUNT IN THE BANK OF INDOCHINA (BIC). WHILE WE LEAVE TO YOU THE AMOUNT TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM BIC TO NBL, WE WOULD HOPE TO TRANSFER THE FULL AMOUNT SO AS TO CONSOLIDATE OUR FUNDS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. IF, AS REPORTED REF B, THE BANK OF INDOCHINA, VIENTIANE BRANCH, IS LIKELY TO CLOSE SOON FOR GOOD, THEN SUCH A MOVE WOULD SEEM IN ORDER ANYWAY. DEPARTMENT CONCURS IN YOUR RELUCTANCE TO PUT ANY NEW MONEY INTO KIP ACCOUNTS AT THIS TIME AND FEELS THE TRANSFER OF EXISTING FUNDS FROM BIC TO

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NBL COUPLED WITH CONTINUING PRESSURE ON THE PGNU TO ALLOW

US TO OPERATE OUR ACCOUNTS IS THE WAY WE SHOULD PROCEED.

2. WE SUGGEST INSERTING FOLLOWING AS SECOND SENTENCE IN YOUR PROPOSED REPLY TO OCTOBER 17 MFA NOTE: 'THE EMBASSY STANDS READY TO COOPERATE WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS FOR A PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE BANK ACCOUNTS PROBLEM.'

3. YOU SHOULD ATTEMPT TO PIN PGNU DOWN, AT LEAST ORALLY, AS TO HOW LONG AUDIT WILL TAKE, NOTING AS APPROPRIATE THAT NORMAL OPERATIONS OF EMBASSY REQUIRE PROMPT RESOLUTION. INGERSOLL

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